

A CITY IN A PARK

Director's Message

With Memorial Day and another successful Riverfest behind us, Summer is here and it is heating up! While the kids are putting down their backpacks and picking up their beach balls, the staff of Little Rock Parks & Recreation is busy with summer maintenance and summer sports. Now is the time to enjoy a picnic in your favorite park. Bike, hike or take a stroll on our trails or try out your golf game.

This month's letter is packed full of great events from last month and many upcoming you'll want to mark on your calendar. We had a great time celebrating our volunteers at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Congratulations to all the very deserving winners...each volunteer is special and we want to remind you just how much we appreciate you. If you or your association, business, family or organized group want to share your time giving back to the community in our parks...please contact us. Our volunteers have a lot of fun while making a big impact! I also want to say thank you again to City Manager Bruce Moore, our City Directors, Parks and Recreation Commissioners and our Keynote Speaker D.J. Williams for joining us to salute our volunteers!

The first Saturday of June our softball and teeball games begin. Please come out and enjoy a friendly game and cheer on these youngsters who never cease to entertain! Our Summer Playground Program is also filling up and will begin in a couple of weeks. The staff is preparing for the best year of all and we look forward to a fun and educational time while the kids are out of school.

Pavilions are filling up with summer picnic and BBQ rentals and we always enjoy seeing you enjoying our parks to the fullest!

Our parks are your parks and if you ever have a suggestion or question, our staff is a phone call away. Here's to a great summer!

Truman Toolefree

In this issue:

- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
- Rebsamen Invitational Golf Tourney
- Therapeutic Arts Festival
- Go Red for Women
- DrainSmart Artists in Action



Fun at the Therapeutic Rec Arts Festival!

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Our volunteers are amazing! The annual volunteer appreciation luncheon was held at The Centre at University May 21. Guest speaker D.J. Williams entertained and encouraged the crowd as the Parks and Recreation Staff served lunch to all our guests. *Congratulations* to all the winners and *thank you again* to each individual for giving back to your community through service to Little Rock Parks and Recreation!



The Kanis DIY Krew received the **Vista Award** for their work done at Kanis Skate Park.

Volunteers Of The Year

Above & Beyond:
Mount St. Mary's Academy

Maintenance:
Lt. Calvin Peterson

Marathon:
Joyce Taylor

Golf: Bob Arrington

Recreation: Susan Leslie



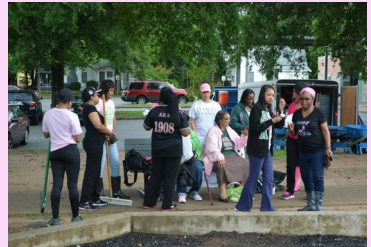
Whole Hog Café received the **Corporate Award** for always being a great partner to call on.

Mark your calendars:

June (All Month) Summer Cereal Drive
 June 6 Cheetah Chase at the Little Rock Zoo
 June 13 Park Ranger Cleanup at Boyle Park
 June 13 Outdoor Pool at Jim Daily Fitness & Aquatic Center Opens
 June 18 First Day of Summer Playground Program
 June 20 CATA Kids Love n' Ride at Boyle Park
 June 22 Junior Park Ranger Kick-off

Finding the Superhero in You!

The 16th annual Therapeutic Recreation Arts Festival was a fun field trip for several school groups the first Friday of May. The event, held at the Metroplex, featured games, arts, crafts, animals from the Little Rock Zoo, a magician, a dance contest, snacks, therapy dogs and lots of excitement! Thank you to all the sponsors for making this annual event another success for our kids! You are ALL superheroes to us!



Rain didn't stop these AKA sorority members from cleaning up and spreading mulch at the Dunbar Community Center May 30! Thank you ladies!

The Rebsamen Invitational and City Championship were played over Memorial Day weekend at Rebsamen Golf Course.

Congrats to the winners in these categories!



- 1) Open Division and City Championship-Chris Jenkins
- 2) Rebsamen Invitational Senior : Bobby Baker
- 3) Rebsamen Invitational Mid Senior: Tracy Harris
- 4) Rebsamen Invitational Super Senior: Joe Bushee



Chris Jenkins



Joe Bushee



Bob Baker



Tracy Harris



Go Red for Women!

Our staff enjoyed sharing all the ways Parks and Recreation promotes a heart-healthy lifestyle at this year's Go Red for Women Luncheon. The Central Arkansas Heart Association's annual event brings so many women together with a common focus: heart health. We have something for everyone's style: biking, hiking, tennis, golf, the Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatic Center, classes at our community centers, park rangers...and even gardening!



LRPR Staff members Karen Johnson and Karen Sykes ready to talk about healthy lifestyles in our Parks!



It was the maiden voyage for the Little Rock and Row at this year's Dragon Boat Festival! The City of Little Rock's entry was captained by Mayor Mark Stodola and-despite lots of rain and mud-the team had a great time racing against the other teams. The team was comprised of several City of Little Rock employees and plans are already in the works for a successful entry in 2016.



www.drain-smart.org VOTING BEGINS JUNE 10



HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY to these Little Rock Parks & Recreation Staff Members!

Stephen McAteer	Bill Craig	Ed Smith
Melvin Collins	JP Rogers	James Fetner
John Mross	Lewis Hamilton	Ed Barnes
David McDowell	Houston Metzler	